

Amendments to the Claims

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A mechanical support (40) for a drainage device of a filter unit (34) for microbiological testing of liquid substances, comprising said filter unit (34) being provided with a membrane (36) and adapted to be mounted on said mechanical support (40) so that said membrane (36) faces a reception surface (46) of said mechanical support (40), which mechanical support ~~is characterized in that it comprises:~~ has a passage (20), one end (22) of which discharges externally of said reception surface (46) and the other end (24) of which discharges onto said reception surface; and - selectively operable means (25,26,27) for closing said passage (20), movable between a first position in which they close said passage (20) and a second position in which they open said passage (20).
2. (Currently amended) ~~A~~The mechanical support according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~wherein said selectively operable closure means (25,26,27) comprise a valve (26) adapted to slide in a bore (27) which said passage (20) crosses, said bore (27) discharging onto an external surface portion (29) of said a reception head (14) to drive said valve (26) in translation between said first position and said second position.
3. (Currently amended) ~~A~~The mechanical support according to claim 1 ~~or claim 2, characterized in that it~~wherein the support has ~~comprises~~ a suction duct (48) that discharges onto said reception surface (46) to aspirate a liquid substance contained in said filter unit (34) through said membrane.
4. (Currently amended) ~~A~~The mechanical support according to ~~either claim 1 or claim 3,~~ characterized in that it comprises: ~~wherein the support has~~ -a reception head (14) adapted to receive said filter unit (34) and including said reception surface (46), said passage (20), said selectively operable closure means (25,26,27), and first connecting means (42,54) ; and - a head support (12) including second connecting means (46,52), said reception head (14) being adapted to be mounted on said head support (12) so that the first connecting means (42,54) and the second connecting means (46,52) cooperate with each other.

5. (Currently amended) A The mechanical support according to claim 1 ~~4~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the support has a reception head adapted to receive said filter unit and including said reception surface, said reception head (44) has a cylindrically symmetric opening (42) formed in ~~the~~ a portion (44) opposite said reception surface (46) to form said first connecting means and in that said head support (12) has a substantially vertical projecting portion (46) forming said second connecting means and adapted to cooperate with said opening (42) when mounting said reception head (44) on said head support (12).

6. (Currently amended) A The mechanical support according to claim 1 ~~5~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the support has a reception head adapted to receive said filter unit and including said reception surface, said reception head (44) and said head support (12) include keying means for locking said connecting means ~~(42, 54, 46, 52)~~.

7. (Currently amended) A The mechanical support according to claim 6 ~~1~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the support has a reception head adapted to receive said filter unit and including said reception surface, said reception head has a transverse bore (60) adapted to cooperate with a groove (56) formed around said vertical portion (46), said transverse bore (60) being adapted to receive key means (58) for forming said a keying means.

8. (Currently amended) A The mechanical support according to ~~any one of claims 4 to 7~~, ~~characterized in that~~ 1 wherein said head support (12) includes an suction branch (40) whose first end is adapted to be connected to said suction duct (18) of said reception head (14) and whose second end is adapted to be connected to an suction pump.

9. (Currently amended) A The mechanical support according to ~~any one of claims 4 to 8~~, ~~1~~ ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said selectively operable closure means comprise a valve adapted to slide in a bore which said passage crosses, said bore discharging onto an external surface portion of a reception head to drive said valve in translation between said first position and said second position and said head support (12) includes a driver device (28) adapted to take up a position opposite said external surface portion (29) and to bear against said valve (26) to drive it in translation into said first position or into said second position.

10. (Currently amended) A The mechanical support according to claim 9, ~~characterized in that~~ 1 wherein said selectively operable closure means comprise a valve adapted to slide in a bore which said

passage crosses, said bore discharging onto an external surface portion of a reception head to drive said valve in translation between said first position and said second position, said head support includes a driver device adapted to take up a position opposite said external surface portion and to bear against said valve to drive it in translation into said first position or into said second position and said driver device (28) includes a solenoid whose core is adapted to drive said valve (26).

11. (Currently amended) A reception head comprising:— a passage, (20) one end (22) of which discharges externally of ~~said~~ a reception surface (16) and the other end (24) of which discharges internally of said chamber;— selectively operable means (25,26,27) for closing said passage (20), movable between a first position in which they closes said passage (20) and a second position in which they open said passage (20); - a cylindrically symmetric opening (42) formed in the portion (44) opposite said reception surface(16) ; and - a transverse bore (60) adapted to cooperate with said opening (42), said transverse bore (60) being adapted to receive key means (58).